

REMARKS

Claims 16-51 were pending in the present application. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's statement that objected claims 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32, 34-37 and 48 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form (Office Action, mailed July 1, 2009, at page 7). Accordingly, in order to expedite prosecution of the application and without conceding to the propriety of any rejections, Applicants have amended claims 16-18 to recite the limitations in objected claim 36. In view of the amendments to claims 16-18, dependent claims 19, 41, and 44-48 have been amended and claim 36 has been canceled, without prejudice. The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification as filed and do not add new matter. Support for amended claims 19 and 41 can be found in the specification at, e.g., page 35, line 23 to page 36, line 14. Support for amended claims 44-46 can be found in the specification at, e.g., page 50, lines 9-15. Support for amended claim 47 can be found in the specification at e.g., page 33, lines 4 to 6. Support for amended claim 48 can be found in the specification at e.g., page 73, lines 27 to 31. Applicants reserve the right to pursue to subject matter of the claims pending prior to the current amendments in the present application or a related application.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants note the two references, A38 and A42, that have been crossed out by the Examiner on the List of Reference Cited by Applicant, which was filed along with a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement on April 23, 2009. Applicants submit herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement which lists the correct application numbers of the foregoing crossed out references. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith.

The Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 Should Be Withdrawn

Claims 16-24, 38, 39, 41-44, and 47-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Beckmann *et al.*, WO 01/44516 ("Beckmann") in view of Rana, U.S. Patent No. 6,503,713 ("Rana"). Claims 27, 30 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Beckmann in view of Rana as applied to claims 16-24, 38, 39, 41-44, and 47 -51, and further in view of Shiroki *et al.*, 1999, Methods in Molecular Biology 118: 449-458. Claim 40 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Beckmann in view of Rana as applied to claims 16-24,

38, 39, 41-44, and 47-51, and further in view of Yang *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 7,354,709. Claims 45 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Beckmann in view of Rana as applied to claims 16-24, 38, 39, 41-44, and 47-51, and further in view of Berger *et al.*, U.S. Publication No. 2004/0162345. In view of the claim amendments, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are moot and should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the present claims meet all the requirements for patentability. Consideration and entry of the foregoing amendments and remarks into the file of the application is respectfully requested. Withdrawal of all rejections and consideration of the amended claims are requested.

If any issues remain, the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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